

Dear Jack Lin,

Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that you are awarded **First Place with Special Honours** at the Red Maple Strings Competition, Junior Category, 13 - 14 years old, for Johann Sebastian Bach, Allemande and Corrente from Partita No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1004.

Here are the comments from our judges:

I'm not sure whether to mention this or not, but there are a few incorrect notes, especially in the Courante—not in terms of intonation, but simply the choice of notes. For Bach's music, I highly recommend referring to urtext editions, as they provide the closest version to the original writing. Bach is undoubtedly one of the pinnacles of violin mastery, and you're doing a great job approaching it thoughtfully. There are many strong moments, especially in how you bring out different voices and engage with the musical structure. Allemande: Since this is, first and foremost, a dance, it would be helpful to establish a clear pulse—one that supports the natural flow of the music without feeling rigid. In terms of tempo, maintaining consistency will help avoid any sense of rushing. Of course, moving slightly forward or pulling back can be justified by interpretation, but in this case, the tempo is consistently accelerating, resulting in a feeling of unrest. Overall, I find it a bit too fast—you don't have enough time to fully process and "sing" the voices. Focusing on smooth connections between the notes and a flowing, ribbon-like phrasing will help achieve this. As I mentioned before, much of this comes back to right-hand control and bowing technique. Courante: The idea of pulse is just as important here, as this too is a dance form. Interestingly, I think your performance could benefit from a slightly livelier feel. A key aspect to focus on is bow distribution—playing the dotted rhythms in one part of the bow and handling chords near the frog will help bring clarity and control. Right now, the bowing feels more spontaneous, so a bit more intentional planning in this area could make a big difference. Overall, you have a great foundation, and with these refinements, your interpretation will become even more expressive and polished! Thanks again for your performance!

Please find your Certificate on the website. If you indicated that you have a teacher and/or an accompanist, their Certificates are also on the website. For your convenience all certificates are in PDF for printing and JPG for posting on social media. Please download the certificates within next two months.

We are thrilled to inform you that you are invited to perform at the Winners' Recital and the Award Ceremony that will be held in Toronto, Canada, in Summer, 2025.

The Winners' Recital and Award Ceremony will take place on July 12, 2025 (Saturday) at St. Andrew's Church in downtown Toronto, located at 73 Simcoe St., Toronto, ON, M5J 1W9. The event will be held during the first half of the day. The exact time of your arrival will be announced two weeks before the recital date. Please, always check your spam/junk email folder to do not miss any important information.

Please register for the recital at the following link by March 11, 2025:

<https://www.pulsar-music.com/recitals>

Payments after the deadline will not be accepted due to the high volume of participants. Please note that the recital registration fees are not refundable and can not be substituted.

Please find your performance information below:

1. Johann Sebastian Bach, Allemande from Partita No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1004 (2 minutes 30 seconds) will be listed in the recital program as your performance repertoire. If you need to change your piece please contact us at info@pulsar-music.com no later than one month prior the event date. The repertoire change is available for an extra fee and the duration of the new piece must be no longer than the original piece duration.
2. If you need an official invitation letter from the Competition to apply for the visa, you may provide this letter.
3. The competition does not provide a piano accompanist. If you bring your own accompanist, please, send us the name of your accompanist, so we can add him/her to our backstage security list. If you need a local piano accompanist, please let us know. However, it will be your responsibility to contact the accompanist and make all the arrangements. If your accompanist doesn't show up for the performance, you will not be allowed onto the stage.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Toronto! In addition, Pulsar Music is happy to invite all Winners' Recital and Award Ceremony participants, their teachers, and family members to join us at other social events after the recital date, such as a trip to Niagara Falls and the Toronto Aquarium.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ekaterina Paniukova, CEO of Pulsar Music

Red Maple Music Competition
Website: <https://www.pulsar-music.com/>
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